

MEMORANDUM

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DATE: November 5, 1962
TO: The Vice President
FROM: Colonel Burris
RE: New York Times Review of Events in the Cuban Crisis

You requested that I analyze the Times review which appeared on Saturday, November 3. I have done so by relating the events to the extent they are reported to that which actually occurred.

Generally speaking, the report relates more to the movement of personalities and to the original secrecy involved than it does to the specific decisions and who contributed to them. Mention is first made of your knowledge of the crisis when you attended the NSC meeting at 11:45 a. m. on Tuesday, October 16th. Additional references are made to meetings of the Executive Committee of the Security Council, but no information is given on attendance or of issues and points of view presented. It might be said that a characteristic of the review is the absence of detected or revealed divergencies from practically unanimous opinion. Note is taken of your October 6th statement by quoting (out of context) that you warned that "stopping a Russian ship was an act of war". Later on, the following manifestation of unanimity is presented in conjunction with the President's decision to institute the quarantine:

"This was not a solomonic decision by the President. He was not choosing between sharply conflicting views. He was approving a view that his advisers had reached after exhausting exploration of every possibility. The process was not a series of conflicts but an exchange of ideas developing a rolling consensus."

In the future, certain historical reference and significance may be attached to this apparently authentic review. It is interesting and accurate as a scenario, but it is lacking greatly in some very important substance.